

Appl. No. : 10/045,186
Filed : 10/18/01

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 1, line 3, as follows:

This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. §371 a continuation, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, of prior PCT International Application No. PCT/AU00/00352 which has an International filing date of April 20, 2000, which designated the United States of America, and which was published by the International Bureau in English on October 26, 2000, and which claims the benefit of Australian Provisional Application No. PP 9850 filed April 20, 1999.

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 5, as follows:

Referring to Figure 3, the collars 4 are adapted to receive and locate submodules 2 having a connecting sleeve 5 with a locking flange 6. In this embodiment, the submodule 2 can be secured at one end with its respective collar 4 by a clip 7 which simultaneously engages the submodule 2 and locking flange 6 to prevent axial withdrawal of the submodule 2 from the collar 4. The locking flange 6 further engages bearingly with a lip 8 of the collar 4. Engaging and releasing the clip 7 enables substantially simple respective assembly and removal of the submodules 2 from the manifold 1. The manifold 1 further includes filtrate passageways 9 for fluid communication between the housing 3 and collars 4 and cleaning fluid passageways 10 for cleaning fluid communication with a cleaning fluid conduit 11. Conduit 11 communicates with housing 3 through a number of holes or passageways 10 as shown in Figures 1, 2, 12a, and 12b. Once fluids enter the housing 3 they pass through passageways 9 into the collar 4, as shown in Figure 1.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 14, as follows:

The manifold 1 may also include a removable cap 20, for fluid-tight sealing engagement with the housing. The preferred embodiment of the cap, shown in Figures 9a and 9b, includes a disc 21 with an axially extending threaded shaft 22 mounted to its centre on one side. The disc 21 also has projections 23 on the other side to facilitate manual turning of the cap 20. The cap will

Appl. No. : 09/045,186
Filed : 10/18/01

be described in more detail below. The shaft 22 retains end cap 20 in position. There is no communication of fluid through shaft 22.

Please amend the paragraph at page 8, line 23, as follows:

In another embodiment of the invention shown in Figure 11, a membrane filtration apparatus 25 includes a headpiece 26 and a basepiece 27, each being an embodiment of the membrane filtration manifold 1 as described above, and connected to four membrane filter submodules 2. Each headpiece 26 connects to a filtrate conduit 28 allowing fluid communication between each headpiece 26 and the filtrate conduit 28. The cap 20 is not required when the membrane filtration manifold 1 is used as a headpiece 26. Absence of the cap 20 allows fluid communication between the manifold 1 and the filtrate conduit 28. When housing 3 is used as a headpiece, the end cap 20 is removed and filtrate withdrawn through the top of manifold 1 into filtrate conduit 28.

Appl. No. : 10/045,186
Filed : 10/18/01

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign mentioned in the description: the locking flange 6, page 7 line 6, is not indicated on Figure 3. The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 3, including a reference to locking flange 6. This sheet, which includes Figure 3, is proposed to replace the original sheet including Figure 3. In view of the amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the proposed changes be accepted and that the objection be withdrawn.

Attachment: Replacement sheet